

THE STANDARD EXAMPLE OF CHRISTIANITY – NOV 1991

Article by Brian H. Butler B.A., D.O., F.A.S.K.

Class of '64 Graduate & former Faculty Member of Ambassador College, England.

These notes, composed from 2013 on, are based on taped lectures given between 1977 and 1997 by Dr. Ernest L. Martin, Ph.D., formerly the Head of Theology for the Worldwide Church of God; he resigned in January 1974 because of his unresolved doctrinal issues with the administration. Sadly Dr. Martin died in January 2002, a great loss to the world and to those who seek Biblical truth.

There is an approach which ensures that anyone can know what the standard for Christianity is, and avoid the confusion taught by many churches.

Like so many things, more people believe things that are not true, than there are who believe things that are true.

The Roman Catholics and many Christian denominations incorrectly teach that the good go to heaven when they die, and the sinners who are unrepentant go to 'Hell' where they burn in excruciating everlasting pain and punishment. The Catholics have also invented several other 'states' where babies, children and people who are not so bad go. There is nothing in the Bible to support these notions.

This false version of our destiny proposes that a drunk who crashes in a car killing himself and a family of four in another vehicle, who has had no chance to repent of his wickedness, will endure 'eternal' punishment. And what about the hapless family of four, will they meet the same fate? Are the billions of Chinese who have never even heard the name of Christ let alone learned about Christianity doomed to a painful existence for all time? And what about all the other billions through the ages, and to this day who worship grotesque stone idols, are they to suffer for ever?

These are preposterous, wicked, cruel concepts perpetuated to keep people in ignorance and fear all their lives.

Incorrect translations from the Greek of certain words may appear to support these incorrect ideas in the King James version, but they certainly do not. The Greek language has a tense called the aorist, which is a form of a verb that expresses action without indicating its completion or continuation, so it is talking about a continuous action.

Although many 'Christians' may hardly if ever read and study the Word of God, the Bible, they probably heard the verse chanted by so many would-

be evangelists: Romans 6:23 For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Notice, the wages of sin is **death**. Death is the termination of life, the end of living, and the dead are dead, not alive in some conscious state.

Psalm 6:5 For in death there is no remembrance of thee: in the grave who shall give thee thanks?

Yes, the wages of sin is death, and it is appointed to every person once to die, but what about the end of the verse? BUT the gift of God is joyful eternal life in Jesus Christ who has saved us from our sin, and any accountability for it.

John 3:16-17 used many times to explain what being 'saved' was:

John 3:16 For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.
17 For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be saved.

Our God, who is Love, certainly does not want us to walk through life in fear and trembling. In the last epistle we have that Paul wrote he says:

2 Timothy 1:7 For God hath not given us the spirit of fear; but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind.

We can rest assured that we humans are saved, now being prepared for eternal life which is the gift to all of us. In Christ, death is abolished, and human beings are to live for ever in joy not in pain.

So what is our legal position with Christ right now? We need to apply the standard example of Christianity, and we will be able to understand the simplicity of it instantly. Timothy in one of the last things he wrote before his death, is part of the most mature teaching of the Gospel explains:

2 Timothy 1:9 Who (God) hath saved (aorist tense- still going on) us, and called (aorist tense) us with an holy calling, not according to our works, but according to his (God's) own purpose and grace, which was given us in Christ Jesus before the world began, 10 But is now made manifest by the appearing of our Saviour Jesus Christ, who hath abolished death, and hath brought life and immortality to light through the gospel:

Our salvation in and through Jesus Christ '*was given us in Christ Jesus before the world began*', before any of human was created or conceived, God's plan was put into action to 'save' through His Grace, every one of His children that He planned to bring into being.

Grace is a gift. It means free, unmerited pardon, whether we deserve it or not. We did not have to *do* anything to receive it, how could we have, when we were not even born?

We were 'in Christ' before the world was created by Him! Our works in this life have nothing to do with being 'saved' either, it is the 'works' done for us by Christ that has washed us clean. Any 'works' that we do can only affect the quality of our character, either for good or bad, but not the fact that we already have the gift of salvation.

The standard example of true Christianity is Christ's life who did it all for us.

In 63 A.D. Paul had recently learned about the meaning of the 'mystery' which had been hidden from all mankind since the beginning of time. The 'mystery' had been revealed to him by Jesus Christ personally. When Jesus was teaching His disciples, he never explained this to them, and they did not know about it.

Here in Ephesians he explains that we are to become literally 'children' of God. Children are like their parents, and we will be like our God!

Ephesians 1:3 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who hath blessed us with all spiritual blessings in heavenly places in Christ:
4 According as he hath chosen us (you, me!) in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before him in love:

God saw each of us as individuals thousands of years before our conception and birth. Our blessings are already reserved for us "in Christ" in the heavenly places where Christ is at the right hand of the Father.

Ephesians 1:5 Having predestinated us unto the adoption of children by Jesus Christ to himself, according to the good pleasure of his will, 6 To the praise of the glory of his grace, wherein he hath made us accepted in the beloved. 7 **In whom** we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of his grace;

We became acceptable to God through the sacrifice and works of Jesus Christ, who substituted by dying for us so we would not have to suffer from the penalties of our sins.

When Christ taught His disciples, He did not teach them this concept and they did not know about it. The world did not know about the fullness of the mystery until it was revealed to Paul in 63 A.D.

Ephesians 1:8 Wherein he hath abounded toward us in all wisdom and prudence; 9 Having made known unto us the mystery of his will, according to his good pleasure which he hath purposed in himself:

The mystery reveals our destiny to be part of God's family as Spirit born Children of God. The ultimate destiny is that in due time, when all is fulfilled, *all things* will be gathered together in Christ.

Ephesians 1:10 That in the dispensation of the fulness of times he might gather together in one all things in Christ, both which are in heaven, and which are on earth; even in him:

This whole Plan of God was conceived before the creation of the universe. God has a timeline, He is gathering all into One (Christ) and in the fullness of time, according to His working, He is bringing it all to pass.

What is interesting is that Paul explains that if we want to understand God, we look at the things that were made. Romans 1:20 For the invisible things of him from the creation of the world are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even his eternal power and Godhead; so that they are without excuse:

If we look at anything around us that has been made by a human being, like a chair or a clock, or the building we are in, everything had to start as an idea. The idea had to be thought through carefully and made into a plan in someone's mind, or on paper. That plan had then to be executed with the materials and skills necessary to produce the chair or the clock, or whatever.

We can look at God's Creation in the same way. A careful reading of the scriptures reveals that God operates in the same way. This marvelous world of living and inanimate things is incredibly complex. So complex that God says we cannot find out how it all works, although cocky mankind thinks they can with their 'science', often falsely so-called.

Ecclesiastes 3:11 He (Yahweh, Jesus Christ) hath made every thing beautiful in his time (according to His timescale): also he hath set the world in their heart, so that no man can find out the work that God maketh from the beginning to the end.

The notion of the 'nice' long haired man who is at the centre of what this world calls Christianity needs some adjusting. It is sobering to realize that everything was created by Jesus Christ. It was He that brought the Plan of the Father into existence. So Christ created the galaxies, the heavens and the earth, the rocks the mountains, the seas, the DNA spiral with its virtually infinite capacity for variety, and the entire fauna and flora of our world. It is also Jesus Christ who gave life to everything, gives life to everything, and now sustains the whole of creation by the Word of His Power under the direction of the Father. This is not the character that Churchianity believes in!

Ephesians 1:11 **In whom** also we have obtained an inheritance, being predestinated according to the purpose of him (the Father) who worketh all things after the counsel of his own **will**: 12 That we should be to the praise of his glory, who first trusted in Christ.

This gives even more meaning to our prayer "Thy Will be done on earth" and in my life.

Ephesians 1:13 **In whom** ye also trusted, after that ye heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation: **in whom** also after that ye believed, ye were sealed with that Holy Spirit of promise, 14 Which is the earnest of our inheritance until the redemption of the purchased possession, unto the praise of his glory.

We, the elect, the chosen ones, are sealed with the Holy Spirit until the resurrection, when we shall be to the praise of His glory.

Ephesians 1:15 Wherefore I also, after I heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus, and love unto all the saints, 16 Cease not to give thanks for you, making mention of you in my prayers;

And what was Paul asking for in his prayers for the Ephesians? The same thing we should be praying for ourselves and for those who God is calling: Wisdom and understanding and knowledge of Him.

Ephesians 1:17 That the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give unto you the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of

him: 18 The eyes of your understanding being enlightened (to understand the mystery) ; that ye may know what is the hope of his calling, and what the riches of the glory of his inheritance in the saints, 19 And what is the exceeding greatness of his power to us-ward who believe, according to the working of his mighty power,

Hebrews 9:27 And as it is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment:

Christ had to die, as every human has to, and after three days the Father raised Jesus Christ from the dead, and Christ presented Himself to the Father for judgment.

At that judgment God the Father saw Jesus Christ as sinless and perfect, and at the same time God saw me, you, and every human that ever was or ever would be as also being sinless and perfect in Christ. The Father then set Jesus Christ and us at His right hand in the heavenly places where we are now in type.

The Father also put all principalities and powers, that is all the angels, archangels, and all the spirit beings that inhabit the heavens under Christ's authority.

Ephesians 1:20 Which he wrought in Christ, when he raised him from the dead, and set him at his own right hand in the heavenly places, 21 Far above all principality, and power, and might, and dominion, and every name that is named, not only in this world, but also in that which is to come:

Christ is also over the ekklesia, his body, and we are a part of that ekklesia, and therefore part of Christ's body, and therefore literally "in Him". We are also then 'firstborn', and there are no 'secondborn' children in the Family.

Ephesians 1:22 And hath put all things under his feet, and gave him to be the head over all things to the church (ekklesia, group, assembly), 23 Which is his body, the fulness of him that filleth all in all.

Remember, chapters and verses in our Bibles are not inspired, just put in for convenience. So Paul continues on in Chapter 2.

Ephesians 2:2 And you hath he quickened, who were dead in trespasses and sins; 2 Wherein in time past ye walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that now worketh in the children of disobedience: 3 Among whom also we all had our conversation in times past in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of

the flesh and of the mind; and were by nature the children of wrath, even as others. 4 But God, who is rich in mercy, for his great love wherewith he loved us, 5 Even when we were dead in sins, hath quickened us together with Christ, (by grace ye are saved;) 6 And hath raised us up together, and made us sit together in heavenly places in Christ Jesus: 7 That in the ages to come he might shew the exceeding riches of his grace in his kindness toward us through Christ Jesus. 8 For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: 9 Not of works, lest any man should boast. 10 For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them.

When Christ was born we were 'in Him', when He died we died too, when He was resurrected so were we, when He was judged perfect so were we. Here it all is in plain, easy to understand English.

Is this just for the few? Or is this the destiny of every human being?

1 Timothy 2:4 Who will have **all** men to be saved, and to come unto the knowledge of the truth.

It is God's will that all human beings will be saved.

Colossians 1: 4 Since we heard of your faith in Christ Jesus, and of the love which ye have to all the saints, 5 For the hope which is laid up for you in heaven, whereof ye heard before in the word of the truth of the gospel;

Colossians 1:12 Giving thanks unto the Father, which hath made us meet to be partakers of the inheritance of the saints in light: 13 Who hath **delivered us** from the power of darkness, and hath into the kingdom of his dear Son: 14 In whom we have redemption through his blood, even the forgiveness of sins: 15 Who is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of every creature:

Jesus Christ said, "I and my Father are One". Christ is the image of the invisible God, the Father, and His Firstborn.

Colossians 1:16 For by him were all things created, that are in heaven, and that are in earth, visible and invisible, whether they be thrones, or dominions, or principalities, or powers: all things were created by him, and for him:

This is all plain language, not in the least capable of being mistranslated or misunderstood unless the person reading this chapter already has

preconceived ideas and notions on the subject, and is constrained by hierarchical dictate to twist the words.

Colossians 1:17 And he (Jesus Christ) is before all things, and by him all things consist.

Jesus Christ was One with the Father before all things were created, and by him all things are maintained and sustained.

Colossians 1:18 And he (Christ) is the head of the body, the church: who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead; that in all things he might have the preeminence.

Christ is building His ekklesia of which He is the head. No mortal man has this position over other men. Church officials who dictate to their members what they should believe are 'vicars', people who are putting themselves in the place of Christ.

Colossians 1:19 For it pleased the Father that in him should all fulness dwell; 20 And, having made peace through the blood of his cross, by him to reconcile all things unto himself; by him, I say, whether they be things in earth, or things in heaven. 21 And you, that were sometime alienated and enemies in your mind by wicked works, yet now hath he reconciled 22 In the body of his flesh through death, to present you holy and unblameable and unproveable in his sight:

Christ is currently in heaven presenting His flock unblameable with all sins forgiven to the Father.

Colossians 1:23 If ye continue in the faith grounded and settled, and be not moved away from the hope of the gospel, which ye have heard, and which was preached to every creature which is under heaven; whereof I Paul am made a minister;

That word "if" carries a lot of weight. We can put ourselves at risk if we do not stay within the narrow and strait path of the true gospel.

Colossians 1:24 Who now rejoice in my sufferings for you, and fill up that which is behind of the afflictions of Christ in my flesh for his body's sake, which is the church: 25 Whereof I am made a minister, according to the dispensation of God which is given to me for you, to fulfil the word of God; 26 Even the mystery which hath been hid from ages and from generations, but now is made manifest to his saints:

27 To whom God would make known what is the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles; which is Christ in you, the hope of glory:
28 Whom we preach, warning every man, and teaching every man in all wisdom; that we may present every man perfect in Christ Jesus:

So the revelation of the 'mystery' was not initially to Israel as they had disqualified themselves by their rejection of Christ, but to the Gentiles, the Nations so that they could be presented perfect in Christ.

Colossians 1:29 Whereunto I also labour, striving according to his working, which worketh in me mightily.

Christ was working 'mightily' in Paul, revealing to him the last piece in the puzzle of the 'mystery' of the gospel so that we in this age would come to understand it in its fullness.

Again, this is plain language, unarguable, clear statements which have been disregarded and misrepresented by too many church leaders.

We who are 'in Christ' are going to be the first humans to be resurrected to Spiritual Life, and we will have tangible spirit bodies, not wispy green smoke! The resurrected Christ and also angels who appeared to people had tangible bodies that looked like humans. Christ's disciples touched Him, and Thomas felt the nail prints in His hands.

Philippians 2:3 Let nothing be done through strife or vainglory; but in lowliness of mind let each esteem other better than themselves. 4 Look not every man on his own things, but every man also on the things of others. 5 Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus: 6 Who, being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God: 7 But made himself of no reputation, and took upon him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men:

What does that mean in verse 5? The mind of Christ although equal to God, took on Himself the form of a servant. He also told His disciples that they should have the attitude of a servant to all.

1 Peter 5:1 The elders which are among you I exhort, who am also an elder, and a witness of the sufferings of Christ, and also a partaker of the glory that shall be revealed: 2 Feed the flock of God which is among you, taking the oversight thereof, not by constraint, but willingly; not for filthy lucre, but of a ready mind; 3 Neither as being lords (bearing rule) over God's heritage, but being examples to the flock.

Hierarchical ministry is not the way, especially not extorting money by insisting illegally that tithing must be practiced in order not to rob God. This ruling format and the issue of money were the practice and attitude of the Nicolaitanes in the book of Revelation which Jesus Christ hates.

Revelation 2:6 But this thou hast, that thou hatest the deeds of the Nicolaitanes, which I also hate.

Revelation 2:15 So hast thou also them that hold the doctrine of the Nicolaitanes, which thing I hate.

Mark 9:33 And he came to Capernaum: and being in the house he asked them, What was it that ye disputed among yourselves by the way? 34 But they held their peace: for by the way they had disputed among themselves, who should be the greatest. 35 And he sat down, and called the twelve, and saith unto them, If any man desire to be first, the same shall be last of all, and servant of all.

Philippians 2:8 And being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross. 9 Wherefore God also hath highly exalted him, and given him a name (which we shall share) which is above every name: 10 That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of things in heaven, and things in earth, and things under the earth; 11 And that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

Verse 10, at the name of Jesus, every knee shall bow, people of every tongue or language will eventually confess Christ is Lord. This word 'confess', wherever it is used in the Bible is always in connection with free volition. People will not confess Christ because they have to, but because they want to.

Philippians 2:12 Wherefore, my beloved, as ye have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling.

Verse 12 is so often quoted out of context. Paul is not telling us to work out our own salvation at all! He is talking about our being very concerned to understand that it is God who is working out our salvation for each of us every step of the way as it tells us in the next verse.

Philippians 2:13 For it is God which worketh in you both to will and to do of his good pleasure.

Even to want or will to be involved in Christianity this has to come from God working in us, not of ourselves.

1 Timothy 2:1 I exhort therefore, that, first of all, supplications, prayers, intercessions, and giving of thanks, be made for all men; 2 For kings, and for all that are in authority; that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and honesty. 3 For this is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Saviour;

Pray for all in authority that they will rule in such a manner that we can lead a quiet and peaceable life.

1 Timothy 2:4 Who (God our Saviour) **will** have **all men** to be saved, and to come unto the knowledge of the truth. 5 For there is one God, and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus; 6 Who gave himself a ransom for all, to be testified in due time (in its own seasons).

God and Christ will have **all** men to be saved, and to come to the knowledge of the truth. The truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth. This is absolutely going to happen. When? In his own strategic time period! In its own season. Exactly on God's schedule. Some will have to wait until they come out of their graves.

There is only one mediator between God and man, the only person between God and ourselves, the man Jesus Christ, and we do not need any Tom, Dick, and Harry who claim and assume that role who dress up in pagan robes and a Dagon fish hat. Over 50% of ministers do not study the Bible, but counselling, church liturgy and so on.

And not through the pathetic activities of evangelizing churches putting out broadcasts of a false, misleading and incomplete gospel on TV and radio stations that almost nobody sees or hears either!

Christ is going to ensure that His Gospel will reach the eyes and ears of everyone on earth in His good time. Christ is building His church, his ekklesia, he is not leaving it to puny men.

People who will call themselves 'Christian' will think it is blasphemy when He proclaims to the world that we are to become God, and have glory as Christ has glory, but that is the good news of the true Gospel.

Christ was a substitute, a proxy for all human beings, male and female alike, and reconciled all to the Father. It is Christ that is the example of Christianity for us all.

2 Corinthians 5:14 For the love of Christ constraineth us; because we thus judge, that if one died for all, then were all dead: 15 And that he died for all, that they which live should not henceforth live unto themselves, but unto him which died for them, and rose again.

If one died for all, then we were all dead! When Christ died on the cross (cross-piece), each of us died too.

2 Corinthians 5:16 Wherefore henceforth know we no man after the flesh: yea, though we have known Christ after the flesh, yet now henceforth know we him no more. 17 Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things (the Old Covenant) are passed away; behold, all things are become new.

The New Covenant has arrived, and we are a new creature. (creation).

2 Corinthians 5:18 And all things are of God, who hath reconciled us to himself by Jesus Christ, and hath given to us the ministry of reconciliation; 19 To wit, that God was in Christ, reconciling the world unto himself, not imputing their trespasses unto them; and hath committed unto us the word of reconciliation.

Christ reconciled the world, and predestined the Jew, Israel, and the Gentiles to Himself.

2 Corinthians 5:20 Now then we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God did beseech you by us: we pray you in Christ's stead, be ye reconciled to God. 21 For he hath made him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him.

God the Father made Christ as 'sin' for us although He had never sinned, so that we could be made righteous. Christ died 'in His sins', actually our sins. He had not repented as He had nothing to repent of, and was totally sinless.

Hebrews 2:6 But one in a certain place testified, saying, What is man, that thou art mindful of him? or the son of man that thou visitest him? 7 Thou madest him a little lower than the angels; thou crownedst him with glory and honour, and didst set him over the works of thy hands: 8 Thou hast put

all things in subjection under his feet. For in that he put all in subjection under him, he left nothing that is not put under him. But now we see not yet all things put under him. 9 But we see Jesus, who was made a little lower than the angels for the suffering of death, crowned with glory and honour; that he by the grace of God should taste death for every man. 10 For it became him, for whom are all things, and by whom are all things, in bringing many sons unto glory, to make the captain of their salvation perfect through sufferings.

There are ministers who teach that anyone who dies in their sins is doomed to eternal suffering. This is not Biblical.

1 John 2:1 My little children, these things write I unto you, that ye sin not. And if any man sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous: 2 And he is the propitiation for our sins: and not for ours only, but also for the sins of the whole world.

That means everyone. 1 Timothy 2:4 All come to a knowledge of the truth.

When Christ was circumcised the 8th day we (both male and female spiritually) were. When Christ was baptized by John the Baptist, we were. When Christ died on the stake, so were we. When Christ was resurrected, so were we. When Christ was set at the right hand of the Father, in type so were we.

Galatians 2:20 I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me.

Why do people want to submit to rules of men which applied to ancient Israel which was a law of slavery. When we appear before the judgment seat, our record of sin will be blank, and on the other side we will actually be in credit!

Jesus wants us to stop sinning but we are in Him and judged sinless anyway. When we sin we hurt ourselves, and we hurt everyone around us. We need to understand that. Sin does not pay, and we are here to learn that through pain, and repent. The experiences of evil are there for us to learn to shun them, that is why sin is in the world today in this era of learning.

What is the example of the standard of Christianity? It is Jesus Christ.

Are the consequences of sin permanent endless torment? How many ministers teach this? They turn to the parable of the rich man, and not realize that is a parable. Romans 12 coals of fire is just figurative.

Ezekiel 18: 4 Behold, all souls are mine; as the soul of the father, so also the soul of the son is mine: the soul that sinneth, it shall die.

Romans 6:23 23 For the wages of sin is death; **but** the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.

The word 'but' cancels out the first statement, we have to have a physical death, for that is the penalty for our sins, but certainly not an age lasting one! We do not have an immortal soul! And Christ has removed the penalty for us by His death. So do not misuse the scriptures! Death for all is part of life...

... **but** the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord. The word 'hell' in the O.T. is translated from 'sheol' and in the N.T is hades which mean the grave. In 1611 when the KJV was translated, the English word 'hell' simply meant 'hole' or dark place. Root vegetables were put in 'hell' for storage, and the word was often used to refer to a dug grave, where the dead were put in a hole dug in the ground.

Matthew 18:8 Wherefore if thy hand or thy foot offend thee, cut them off, and cast them from thee: it is better for thee to enter into life halt or maimed, rather than having two hands or two feet to be cast into everlasting fire.

This is definitely figurative language for effect. All the scriptures point to our true destiny, and nobody should allow one verse or verses that appear to say the opposite to cloud the issue.

Matthew 25:41 Then shall he say also unto them on the left hand, Depart from me, ye cursed, into everlasting fire, prepared for the devil and his angels: And these shall go away into everlasting punishment: but the righteous into life eternal.

It says everlasting (age lasting) in the KJV. That is because the translators were immersed in the doctrine of the immortality of the soul, and God allowed this error to be in His inspired Word, but gave us the wit to understand the truth. Notice the everlasting fire is prepared for the devil and his angels, not human beings.

Christ our example died in his sins, but He did not go into everlasting punishment, we went to the right hand of the Father! So will we. Probation does not end with death. When those who have not repented before they died will be resurrected to human life, they will repent of their own volition, willingly, and that includes Hitler, Stalin, Nero, and the worst people you can think of, Christ died for them all.

1 Corinthians 15:16 For if the dead rise not, then is not Christ raised:
17 And if Christ be not raised, your faith is vain; ye are yet in your sins.
18 Then they also which are fallen asleep in Christ are perished.
19 If in this life only we have hope in Christ, we are of all men most miserable. 20 But now is Christ risen from the dead, and become the firstfruits of them that slept. 21 For since by man came death, by man came also the resurrection of the dead. 22 For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ shall all be made alive. 23 But every man in his own order: Christ the firstfruits; afterward they that are Christ's at his coming. 24 Then cometh the end, when he shall have delivered up the kingdom to God, even the Father; when he shall have put down all rule and all authority and power. 25 For he must reign, till he hath put all enemies under his feet. 26 The last enemy that shall be destroyed is death. 27 For he hath put all things under his feet. But when he saith all things are put under him, it is manifest that he is excepted, which did put all things under him. 28 And when all things shall be subdued unto him, then shall the Son also himself be subject unto him that put all things under him, that God may be all in all.

Knowing this teaching, we should act like royalty, like princes and princesses. We ought to behave ourselves morally ethically as Christ did. We are created to do good works. I am third in position in the universe. We are citizens of heaven. Unbelievable but true, thanks to God's mercy and His grace.

1 Corinthians 1:8 Who shall also confirm you unto the end, that ye may be blameless in the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. Who shall confirm you unto the end. 9 God is faithful, by whom ye were called unto the fellowship of his Son Jesus Christ our Lord.

Philippians 1:6 Being confident of this very thing, that he which hath begun a good work in you will perform it until the day of Jesus Christ:

It is God who is in us to will and to do of His good pleasure, and He will do it. We can rest in the fact that 'The standard example of Christianity is Jesus Christ'.

